PHC6937 Statistical Learning with Applications in Health Sciences (3 credits)
Semester: Spring 2020
Delivery Format: On-Campus

Instructor Name: Qing Lu
Room 5233 CTRB
E-mail: lucienq@phhp.ufl.edu (Preferred Course Communications)
Telephone: 352-294-5928

Class Meets: Mondays (12:50pm-2:45pm) and Wednesdays (1:55pm-2:45pm)
HPNP G-103
There is no class meeting on Martin Luther King Holiday and throughout Spring break

Office hours: MW, right after the lecture

Prerequisites: PHC 6092, PHC 6050c, PHC 6051, or permission of the instructor.

Purpose and Outcome

Course Overview PHC6937 should be useful to second-year master students or PhD students in biostatistics or related fields as preparation for research and professional advancement. This course covers a broad range of statistical learning methods that are useful for modern data analysis, specifically in the analysis of high-dimensional data (p<n). Many of these methods go far beyond the classical statistical methods (e.g., linear regression) and are developed for addressing various problems (e.g., non-linearity) we encounter in real situations. Statistical learning methods covered in this class also includes some newly developed methods, such as deep learning, which has achieved great success in many areas (e.g., computer vision and natural language processing). We will demonstrate the use of these methods with applications, especially in the context of health science research.

Course Objectives and/or Goals The objective of this course is to introduce important topics and key concepts in statistical learning, with an emphasis on statistics methods and their applications to health science research. As such, the course requires familiarity with basic probability theory and statistical inference. After finishing this course, the student should know the key concepts in statistical learning and be familiar with different methods used for various purposes.
Description of Course Content

Topical Outline/Course Schedule
The course will cover major concepts and a variety of methods in the field of statistical learning. Tentative topics include variable selection and regularization, nonlinear regression, tree and random forest, support vector machine, neural network and deep learning.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/6-1/8</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistical Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/13-1/15</td>
<td>Linear methods for regression</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1/20-1/22</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</td>
<td>1. Least Angle Regression 2. Regression Shrinkage and Selection via the Lasso</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1/27-1/29</td>
<td>Linear methods for classification</td>
<td>1. Rosenblatt's Perceptron</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2/3-2/5</td>
<td>Basis expansion and Regularization</td>
<td>1. Regularization Theory</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>2/17-2/19</td>
<td>Model Assessment and Selection</td>
<td>1. Generalized Cross-Validation Ridge</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>2/24-2/26</td>
<td>Model inference and averaging</td>
<td>1. Stacked Generalization 2. Bumping</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/2-3/4</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3/9-3/11</td>
<td>Additive models, trees and related methods</td>
<td>1. PRIM 2. MARS</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>3/16-3/18</td>
<td>Boosting and additive trees</td>
<td>1. AdaBoost</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>3/30-4/1</td>
<td>Support vector machines and flexible discriminants</td>
<td>1. Regularization Networks and SVM 2. svmtutorial</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4/6-4/8</td>
<td>Neural Networks</td>
<td>1. Long Short-Term Memory</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>4/20-4/22</td>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
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Course Materials and Technology

The course is developed based on three textbooks, all of which are freely available online
1. The Elements of Statistical Learning: Data Mining, Inference, and Prediction
2. An Introduction to Statistical Learning, with Applications in R
3. Deep Learning

Statistical Software:
We will mainly use R in this course. R is free and you can download R from http://www.r-project.org/. Rstudio is a recommended interface for the R software. It is also free and can be downloaded from http://www.rstudio.org. R packages related to this course can be found under https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/ElemStatLearn/index.html

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:
- Learning-support@ufl.edu
Academic Requirements and Grading

Grading  There will be no exam for the course. The course will be evaluated based on homework (10%), an in-class presentation (35%) and a final group project (45%). Attendance will account for 10% of the final grade. Each student will be assigned 1-2 papers related to the above topics, will be required to give a carefully review of assigned literatures, and give a formal in-class presentation. For the final project, 2-3 students will form a group and work on and present a project based on 1) the analysis of a real dataset using existing methods/software, or 2) comparing existing methods by simulations, 3) developing a new method. The students are also encouraged to base their class projects on one of their own projects related to this course.

The numerical final score will be converted to the letter grades according to the following scale:

- 93-100 = A
- 90-92.9 = A-
- 85-89.9 = B+
- 80-84.9 = B
- 75-79.5 = B-
- 70-74.9 = C+
- 65-69.5 = C

Scores below 65 will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
Depending on the overall class performance, these ranges may be adjusted.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:
http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades

Exam Policy

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work

Please note: Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the UF Computing help desk (http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/) correspondence. You MUST e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance). Additional information can be found here: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Student Expectations, Roles, and Opportunities for Input
Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:
https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sscr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/
http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Policy Related to Guests Attending Class

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Please note that guests are not permitted to attend either cadaver or wet labs. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy in its entirety. Link to full policy: http://facstaff.phhp.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

**Counseling and Student Health**

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: [http://www.counseling.ufl.edu](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu). On line and in person assistance is available.

- You Matter We Care website: [http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/). If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.

- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: [https://shcc.ufl.edu/](https://shcc.ufl.edu/)

- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
  Alachua County Crisis Center:
  (352) 264-6789
  [http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx](http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx)

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

**Inclusive Learning Environment**

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida’s Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, “The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected
under the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act.” If you have questions or concerns about your rights
and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural
& Diversity Affairs website: www.multicultural.ufl.edu